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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Nobuyuki ENOMOTO et al.

Serial No.: 10/642,480

Group Art Unit: 2467

Filing Date: August 18, 2003

Examiner: Tsegaye, Saba

For: NETWORK SYSTEM, SPANNING TREE CONFIGURATION METHOD,
SPANNING TREE CONFIGURATION NODE, AND SPANNING TREE
CONFIGURATION PROGRAM

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 through §1.98 and pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicants respectfully bring the following documents cited in the Chinese Office Action in a counterpart foreign application and listed on the attached form PTO-1449, to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application. Copies of the listed documents are provided herewith for the convenience of the Examiner. A copy of the listed U.S. Patent is not provided in compliance with *Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003*, 1273 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 55 (August 5, 2003). For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of the first page of the listed U.S. Patent is provided. It is noted that U.S. Patent No. 6,938,075 B1 is the U.S. equivalent of Chinese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 1264077 A.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants encloses herewith a copy of the Chinese Office Action citing such documents, together with an English-language version of that portion of the Office Action indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. Further, an English-language Abstract is attached to one of the references.

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This citation does not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims. They are only cited as constituting related art of which Applicants are aware.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was the first citation of that item by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, which occurred not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

It is respectfully requested that the listed references be considered by the Examiner and formally made of record in this application.

Submitted herewith is a check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the Information Disclosure Statement fee.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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